

necessary for adenovirus packaging. This sequence is preferably present in multiple copies. One type of minimal packaging sequence is an "A repeat", which contains a consensus sequence. Several A repeat sequences are shown in Table 1.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-37 are pending. Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-37 stand rejected. Please cancel claims ~~20-25~~²⁰⁻³⁷ without prejudice. Please amend claims 1 and 4 to read as follows. A marked-up version of the claims showing deletions and insertions is provided in the appendix to this paper.

1. (Third amendment) A method of regulating adenovirus packaging comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a helper adenovirus vector containing a first adenovirus packaging sequence comprising a repressor binding site, wherein the repressor binding site is located between, within, or surrounding the adenovirus packaging sequence;

(b) obtaining a DNA delivery adenovirus vector comprising 5' and 3' inverted terminal repeats; a second adenovirus packaging sequence; a heterologous gene; and a promoter operatively linked to the heterologous gene;

(c) propagating the helper adenovirus vector of (a) and the DNA delivery adenovirus vector of (b) in a cell-line; and

(d) repressing packaging of the helper adenovirus vector of (c) by binding a repressor to the repressor binding site contained in the helper adenovirus vector.

4. (Third amendment) The method according to claim 1, wherein the propagating step for the helper adenovirus occurs in a first cell-line thereby forming virus particles containing the helper adenovirus vector, transferring the virus particles to a second cell-line, and the repressing step occurs in the second cell-line, wherein the repressing step further comprises a step selected from the group of steps consisting of:

(a) endogenously expressing the repressor; and